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## **Rocky Flats' 1000<sup>th</sup> Shipment Arrives at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

DENVER, Colo., July 2, 2003—The 1000<sup>th</sup> shipment of transuranic waste from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) has safely arrived at DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico.

"This shipment signifies a major milestone in our efforts to remain on track in removing all transuranic waste from Rocky Flats," said Department of Energy Rocky Flats Manager Gene Schmitt. "We are more than 55 percent complete toward our goal of safely removing all transuranic waste from Rocky Flats and away from the Denver metropolitan area."

Rocky Flats' 1000<sup>th</sup> shipment to WIPP left the Site at 10:00 a.m., (MST) June 30 and arrived at WIPP at 1:30 p.m., (MST) July 1. It was the 1821<sup>st</sup> shipment to arrive at WIPP. The shipment contained 11.4 cubic meters of waste in three TRUPACT-II shipping containers, bringing the total number of cubic meters disposed of at WIPP to 13,097.

"This is a significant accomplishment in safely and reliably removing from the site a risk to our workers and our community," said Kaiser-Hill Vice President for Material Stewardship Mark Spears. "Our workers have safely and compliantly packaged and shipped more than half of the projected 12,500 cubic meters of Rocky Flats' transuranic waste to WIPP. With each shipment we are gaining ground on closing Rocky Flats by Dec. 15, 2006."

Rocky Flats completed its first shipment to WIPP on June 15, 1999, less than three months after WIPP began disposal operations. Since then, Rocky Flats has consistently led the nation in the number of shipments to WIPP, providing approximately 55 percent of WIPP's current inventory. To date, trucks from Rocky Flats have safely traveled more than 708,000 miles carrying the waste material to WIPP, averaging 10 shipments per week.

Rocky Flats is a DOE-owned former nuclear weapons production facility and environmental cleanup site operated by Kaiser-Hill Company under an accelerated closure contract. The Rocky Flats mission includes special nuclear material management and shipment, nuclear deactivation and decommissioning, waste management and shipment, environmental cleanup and site closure.

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WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's cleanup effort, is the nation's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Located in southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, project facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient stable salt formation, 2,150 (almost one-half-mile) underground. During the expected 35-year operating life of WIPP, DOE will transport some 37,000 shipments of transuranic waste to the repository from 23 locations nationwide.